

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, amend the heading above line 5 as follows:

Technical Field of the Invention

Page 1, amend the paragraph beginning at line 5 as follows:

The ~~present invention~~ technology relates to reducing the latency in Push to Talk services and in particular in so-called Push to Talk Over Cellular services.

Page 1, amend the heading above line 10 as follows:

Background to the Invention

Page 2, amend the heading above line 25 as follows:

Summary of the Invention

Page 2, amend the paragraph beginning at line 25 as follows:

The inventor ~~of the present invention~~ has recognised that the initiating subscriber is unlikely to begin talking for a short while after the tone has been played due both to the reaction time of the subscriber and to his/her “thinking time”. In the example of Figure 2, this delay is of the order of 0.8 seconds.

Page 2, amend the paragraph beginning at line 30 as follows:

According to a first aspect ~~of the present invention~~ there is provided a method of processing user speech data for transmission to a participant or participants in a push to talk session over a communications network, the method comprising:

Page 3, amend the paragraph beginning at line 7 as follows:

The ~~invention~~technology described herein is particularly applicable to removing an initial period of silence from the initial speech burst provided by the initiating party of the push to talk session. This has the effect of reducing the delay between the generation of the speech burst by the initiating subscriber and the playing of the speech burst to the or each other participant.

Page 3, amend the paragraph beginning at line 27 as follows:

Certain example embodiments ~~of the invention~~ may comprises monitoring the audio level and commencing recording of the speech only when that level exceeds some predefined threshold. This step may be carried out at the terminal of the imitating party or at a server node within the communication network. In other embodiments of the invention, an initial period expected to contain silence is predefined, and the start of the speech data is clipped to remove the predefined period. The predefined period may be fixed, or may be adaptive based upon talk/usage patterns of the user.

Page 4, amend the paragraph beginning at line 6 as follows:

According to a second aspect ~~of the present invention~~ there is provided a server node for use in a communication network offering a push to talk service to subscribers, the node comprising:

Page 4, amend the paragraph beginning at line 21 as follows:

According to a third aspect ~~of the present invention~~ there is provided a mobile terminal for use in a communication network offering a push to talk service to subscribers, the terminal comprising:

Page 5, amend the heading above line 10 as follows:

Detailed Description of Certain Embodiments

Page 5, amend the paragraph beginning at line 17 as follows:

In a first example ~~embodiment of the invention~~, a Media Resource Function (MRF) of the PoC server begins receiving an the initial speech burst, sent from the initiating subscriber's mobile terminal (UE#1) following initiation of the PoC session. This burst will include an initial period of silence or background noise which might for example last for 0.8 seconds, and will be transported from UE#1 to the PoC server in a number of Real Time Protocol (RTP) frames. The PoC server buffers the received speech data and awaits receipt of a SIP 200 OK message from the other participant(s) in the session. This may take from a few milliseconds to several seconds. During this time, the PoC server analyses the buffered data to determine the length of the initial silent period, and clips the data to remove that period once identified. Following receipt of the 200OK message(s), the PoC server begins transmitting the clipped speech from the front of the buffer.